

REMARKS

Claims 1-34, and 37-44 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 35, 36, and 45 are cancelled, claims 5, 12, 31, and 32 have been amended. The amended claims set is provided herewith.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 5 and 32 have been objected to because of informalities. Specifically, claim 5 should have “has” inserted between “and” and “a” in line 1; and claim 32 should have “modified is” deleted from line 2. The above claim amendments have corrected these inadvertent typographical errors as well as other inadvertent typographical errors that were noticed. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 35 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by Bedingham, U.S. Patent No. 6,662,830 (“Bedingham I”).

Claim 36 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by Bedingham, U.S. Patent No. 6,987,253 (“Bedingham II”).

Claim 45 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by Arai, JP 08233778.

Although Applicant does not necessarily concede the correctness of these rejections, claims 35, 36, and 45 have been cancelled herein in order to expedite the allowance of this application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as all rejections have been overcome. Early notice of allowability is kindly requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at 651.259.6702 or by E-mail at anelson@cnwiplaw.com with any questions or comments.

Please grant any extension of time, if necessary for entry of this paper, and charge any fee due for such extension or any other fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 503964.

Respectfully submitted,

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